

VZCZCXRO5248
PP RUEHAG RUEHDF RUEHIK RUEHLZ RUEHROV
DE RUEHTC #0253 0741350
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 141350Z MAR 08
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1229
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC
RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHDC
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEHAT/AMCONSUL AMSTERDAM 3925

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 000253

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

STATE FOR OES, EUR/PGI, EUR/WE (TSMITH)
USDOC FOR 4212/USFCS/MAC/EURA/OWE/DCALVERT
USEU FOR TSMITHAM

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: [KGHG](#) [SENV](#) [ENRG](#) [ECON](#) [EINV](#) [EU](#) [NL](#)

SUBJECT: DUTCH ON U.S.-EU CLIMATE CHANGE COOPERATION

REF: STATE 24257

11. (U) Econ Section Chief discussed reftel points March 14 with Gerie Jonk, Senior Policy Officer, Dutch Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning, and the Environment. (Dutch officials responsible for preparing GONL positions ahead of the March 13-14 European Council meeting were not available prior to this date.)

12. (SBU) Jonk indicated there was strong support among EU member states for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) language suggesting Annex 1 countries collectively reduce their emissions by 25-40 percent by 2020, compared to 1990 levels. She agreed that such a target was ambitious but argued that it was not unrealistic. However, she said the Council was not expected at this juncture to call for developed countries to make specific emissions reduction commitments. Rather, the meeting would focus on reactions to the European Commission's January 23 emissions reduction legislative package, including revisions to the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) post-2012 and the implementation of new EU targets on renewable energies through burden sharing among EU member states. The Dutch delegation, led by Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende, would also push for the development and inclusion of sustainability criteria when meeting 10 percent biofuel use targets.

13. (SBU) Jonk stressed that the EU, and particularly the Netherlands, viewed itself as a leader on climate change policies and was pleased to see increased U.S. engagement on the issue. She acknowledged that large developed countries, such as the United States, were starting from a different baseline than the EU. The GONL sought "comparable efforts" from these countries, she explained, and was hopeful that the U.S. would eventually commit to equally ambitious emission reduction targets. Meanwhile, there was a growing awareness within the GONL of USG efforts on climate change and support for USG initiatives, including the Major Economies Meeting process, she added.

GALLAGHER